

*TEREBRATULA OBLONGIOR* BEUTH, 1776 (BRACHIOPODA):  
PROPOSED REJECTION AS A *NOMEN OBLITUM*. Z.N.(S.) 1703

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In 1820 (: 259–260) E. F. v. Schlotheim described a strange brachiopod under the binomen *Terebratulites gryphus*. This spiriferid index fossil which came from the Givetian (Bücheler Schichten) of the Bergisch Gladbach–Paffrath syncline (Klutstein near Schildgen), was not figured until 1822 when the supplements appeared. No additional comments were made.

2. The original material on which Schlotheim based his species is completely preserved in the Geological Department and Museum of the Humboldt University in Berlin. However, Schlotheim did not indicate a type. His figures (1822 : tab. 19, fig. 1) are so idealized that there is no specimen to which they properly can be attributed. Moreover, the collection contains more than one species: among the six syntypes there is a big, partly damaged specimen having the characteristic pouches of *Uncites* (*Winterfeldia*) *paulinae* Winterfeld, 1895.

3. Furthermore, Schlotheim was not the first describer of this form (i.e. the form for which Schlotheim apparently intended the name *gryphus*) for in 1776 (: 134, N.74) F. Beuth described and named this same brachiopod (*Terebratula oblongior*) in a diagnostic manner and added to it a precise, unidealized figure (: tab. 2, N.74) reproduced below. His material was collected from the same locality.

4. Despite the fact that E. Suess (1856 : 90), Th. Davidson (1864–65 : 22–23), F. A. Quenstedt (1871 : 232) and G. Meyer (1879 : 67–68) referred to Beuth's priority, both they and later students likewise, continued to use the binomen *Uncites gryphus* (Schlotheim) or *U. gryphoides* (Schlotheim), since Defrance 1827 (: 151–152; 1828 : 256–257) and 1825 in Blainville (: 630) had



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N. 74. *Terebratula oblongior*, dense striata, rostro  
valvæ superioris prominente, inferius valde ven-  
tricosa. prope Paffrath.

established the new genus *Uncite* or *Uncites*. Both these generic names were mentioned on the same page in DeFrance's 1827 paper, yet in Blainville (1825) *Uncite* only was mentioned. Since C. F. Roemer (1844) the name *Uncites* has been commonly applied. Under the much junior synonym *U. gryphus* (Schlotheim), Beuth's *Terebratulula oblongior* went into the literature—even into the textbooks.

5. Granted that Beuth used a binomen, the case in question deals with a *nomen oblitum* and has to be announced to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (Article 23b(i)). There is no doubt that Beuth knew the binominal system of nomenclature and used it. Thus he identified fossils with specific names founded by Linné (for example *Dentalia minuta* L. : 118). In the case of a new species, new names were associated specifically with the generic names (for example *Terebratulula*). Hence it is clear that a comma in the Latin text was put after the species name *oblongior* in order to separate from the binomen significant features of the newly described brachiopod.

6. Beuth's collection was transferred to the Museum of the Geology Department in Bonn and disappeared there. Brachiopods which were described by Schlotheim from the Givetian or Frasnian of the Bergisches Land (Refrath, Bensberg, Gladbach, Paffrath) are sometimes falsely attributed to the Eifel (= Eiffel). This material probably was not collected by himself but came into his hands via Bonn (for example *Cyrtospirifer aperturatus* or *Uncites gryphus*). This may explain the fact that among Schlotheim's syntypes of *Terebratulites gryphus* a specimen occurs which can be easily identified with the one copied for the woodcut of Beuth. This specimen is now selected (by the present authors) as lectotype for *Uncites gryphus* (Schlotheim, 1820).

7. In view of the above facts, the International Commission is asked to decide whether the junior or senior synonym should be stabilized as type-species of *Uncites* (non *Uncite*). There would seem to be little useful purpose in substituting the senior synonym, especially since the binomen *Uncites gryphus* has been clearly cited in many fossil lists, publications on stratigraphy of the Givetian and even in the textbooks. As it deals with a widespread fossil (Eurasia), the re-introduction of Beuth's specific name would almost certainly cause confusion.

8. It is therefore recommended that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature:

- (1) reject the specific name *oblongior* Beuth, 1776, as published in the binomen *Terebratulula oblongior*, as a *nomen oblitum*;
- (2) place the specific name *gryphus* Schlotheim, 1820, as published in the binomen *Terebratulites gryphus*, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;
- (3) place the name rejected in (1) above on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

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